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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 CHARLES J. VERKIST, et al.,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
14 et al.,

15 Defendants.

CASE NO. C21-0721JLR

ORDER OF REFERENCE

16 This action is assigned to the Honorable James L. Robart, United States District  
17 Judge. All future documents filed in this case must bear the cause number  
18 C21-0721JLR-DWC. The court has reviewed the files and records herein and determined  
19 that certain pretrial matters are appropriate to refer to a Magistrate Judge as described  
20 below.

21 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and Local Rule MJR 3, the court hereby  
22 refers to Magistrate Judge David W. Christel all motions to amend or supplement the

1 pleadings under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15, and all motions related to discovery  
2 disputes, including but not limited to motions to compel discovery, motions for a  
3 protective order related to discovery, and motions related to issues of privilege. *See* 28  
4 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); Local Rules W.D. Wash. MJR 3(a). Federal Rule of Civil  
5 Procedure 72(a) governs any objections to Magistrate Judge David W. Christel's rulings  
6 concerning the above-described discovery motions. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a); Local  
7 Rules W.D. Wash. MJR 3(b).

8 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C) and Local Rule MJR 4, the court  
9 also hereby refers to Magistrate Judge David W. Christel for preparation of a report and  
10 recommendation all motions (1) for a temporary restraining order pursuant to Federal  
11 Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b); <sup>1</sup> (2) for judgment on the pleadings pursuant to Federal  
12 Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c); (3) to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
13 12(b); and (4) for a default judgment pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b).  
14 *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B); Local Rules W.D. Wash. MJR 4(a)(3). Federal Rule of  
15 Civil Procedure 72(b) governs any further proceedings in this court after Magistrate  
16 Judge David W. Christel files a report and recommendation. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b);  
17 Local Rules W.D. Wash. MJR 4(c).

18 Accordingly, the court ORDERS that the above-entitled action is referred to  
19 Magistrate Judge David W. Christel for the specific purposes and types of motions  
20 described herein. The court further DIRECTS and EMPOWERS Magistrate Judge David

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22 <sup>1</sup> For motions for a temporary restraining order, Magistrate Judge David W. Christel is  
authorized to prepare the order as recommended for the undersigned's signature.

1 W. Christel to conduct hearings and make further necessary orders consistent with 28  
2 U.S.C. § 636, the local rules, and this order.

3 Dated this 17th day of September, 2021.

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6 JAMES L. ROBART  
7 United States District Judge  
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